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REFERENCE: CAT/15th States parties meeting

Subject: Fifteenth Meeting of the States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Secretary-General of the United Nations (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) has the honour to refer to the provisions of article 17 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment relating to the election of the members of the Committee against Torture, the text of which is attached (annex I).

The Fifteenth Meeting of the States parties to elect five members of the Committee against Torture to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2015 (annex II), will be convened by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Office at Geneva on **Thursday 8 October 2015**.

Pursuant to article 17, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the Secretary-General has the honour to invite States parties to submit their nominations for this election, together with the biographical data concerning the candidate, drafted in accordance with the model attached (annex III).

The Secretary-General would like to draw attention to the General Assembly resolution A/68/268 adopted on 9 April 2014 entitled “Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system” and its provisions 10 and 13 on the nomination and election of treaty body experts:

“*Encourages* States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies;” (para. 10)

“*Encourages* States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographic distribution, the representation of different forms of civilisation and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies;” (para. 13)

The same General Assembly resolution 68/268 (para. 12), requires the provision of information regarding the current composition of the Committee. This information can be found on the webpage of the Committee at the following address: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CAT/Pages/Membership.aspx>



The nomination and the biographical data, in electronic version (**Word format**), should be sent by note verbale of the Permanent Mission, to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (registry@ohchr.org, copied to cat@ohchr.org), by **Tuesday 16 June 2015** at the latest, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 17 of the Convention. The biographical data should not exceed 38 lines.

In accordance with article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention, each State party may nominate one person from among its own nationals. In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to the attached note (annex V) on the implications of being a Member of the United Nations Committee against Torture as well as to annex IV which contains the names of those members of the Committee who will continue to serve on it until 31 December 2017.

The Secretary-General, in accordance with article 17, shall prepare a list of all candidates, with an indication of the States parties which have nominated them, and shall submit the list to all States parties together with information concerning the Fifteenth Meeting of the States parties.

16 March 2015